



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

December 12, 2003

Mr. Monte Wilson, Chair
INEEL Citizens Advisory Board
North Wind, Inc.
545 Shoup Avenue, Suite 200
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83402

Dear Mr. Wilson:

In response to your letter of November 21, 2003, regarding direction and guidance for implementing direct DOE relationship and funding for Environmental Management (EM) Site Specific Advisory Boards (SSABs), I first want to assure you that the Department of Energy views the SSABs as crucial to accomplishing our cleanup mission. The SSABs represent a strong commitment by the Department to continue its relationship with communities surrounding the EM sites by considering community concerns and values in the Department's decision-making process.

Your letter makes a persuasive case for using short-term option # 1: "Execute DOE Support Services Contract w/ a Section 8(a) Small Business," as a long-term solution to this issue. You argue that "The contract is issued by the Federal government and allows Federal oversight over financial and legal aspects of the contractor's performance." Your letter also contends that, under your proposed arrangement, "The INEEL CAB still has the authority to direct the operations of the contractor to meet our needs, within the allocated budget. In addition, this type of contract offers business opportunities for small businesses."

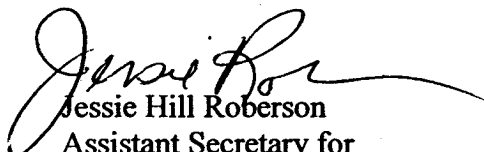
After reviewing the information from the INEEL CAB and others, I have concluded that operating under a small business support services contract is advantageous to the Board and to the Department. Therefore, I will allow short-term option #1: "Execute DOE Support Services Contract w/ a Section 8(a) Small Business," as an acceptable long-term solution to implementing a direct DOE relationship for the EM SSABs, and will communicate this decision to all interested parties. The two long-term options contained in Sandra Waisley's October 31, 2003 memorandum, i.e., to incorporate under Section 501 (C)3 of the IRS code as a non-profit organization; or to receive DOE Federal management and support, remain valid long-term options as well.



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If you have any further questions regarding my- guidance and direction, please call Ms. Sandra Waisley, Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 586-3087.

Sincerely,


Jessie Hill Roberson
Assistant Secretary for
Environmental Management